Section 31a Double Jeopardy

True or False?

Behavior Intervention	Services	Funding	Regulations	Potpourri
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000

Does the new legislation allow for funding to be used for in-house detention, or a "thinking" room?





ANSWER:

TRUE—Although the legislation is vague on allowing for bullying or crisis intervention, a "thinking" room could be considered behavior intervention (crisis) and if aligned with an LEA continuous improvement plan, is allowable..



100% of Section 31a funds may be used to support reading improvement in the fourth grade.





ANSWER:

TRUE—If a school has 40% or more of its students identified as at-risk, supplemental instructional or non-instructional services consistent with the school improvement plan may be provided.



Classroom size reduction can no longer be funded by Section 31a allocations.





ANSWER:

FALSE – Section 31a funds can be used for Classroom Size Reduction (CSR) if it is a strategy for improving proficiency in reading in the 3rd grade or provides support for high school students to be career/college ready as measured by the MME.



A school district may use up to 100% of their Section 31a funds for improving proficiency in 2nd grade math students.





ANSWER:

TRUE—If a school has more than 40% of their students are identified as at-risk, 100% of the Section 31a funds can be used to support math if it is a need identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and is documented by the School Improvement Plan.



Schools may use Section 31a funds to provide a behavior interventionist to work with students on their behavior.





ANSWER:

TRUE—Schools can use up to 100% of their funds for alternative activities if more than 40% of the students are at-risk, and the activity is driven by the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and documented in the School Improvement Plan.



Current Section 31a legislation allows a district to start-up an alternative education program.

Return to
Question Board

ANSWER:

TRUE—Although not specifically itemized as a viable program, if the intent of the program is to provide instructional resources for students to become career/college ready, as measured by the MME, it is allowable.

Return to Question Board

A school wide program can be implemented using 31a funds if more than 40% of their students are eligible at-risk students. Up to 100% of allocated funding can be used for this initiative.

Return to
Question Board

ANSWER:

TRUE—Section 10 of the legislation stipulates that if more than 40% of the students are atrisk in a school, up to 100% of the allocated funds may be used for a schoolwide initiative if it aligns with the school improvement plan.

Return to Question Board

A paraprofessional can, under the current legislation, provide "behavior intervention" services to identified "at-risk" students.

Return to
Question Board

ANSWER:

FALSE—Even though the service may be identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), and it is directed by the LEA continuous improvement plan, a paraprofessional is not likely to be certified/licensed to provide behavior intervention to the students,



If a district fails to reach 100% of its third graders proficient in reading by 3rd grade, they have 3 more years to assure proficiency.

Return to
Question Board



ANSWER:

FALSE—The district will need to allocate to the next year, the proportion of their funds represented by their non-proficient students multiplied by ½ of its total at-risk funds toward tutorial or other activities..

Return to
Question Board

Direct non-instructional services can only be given during the school day.

Return to
Question Board



ANSWER:

"during" the regular school day, the language read "may" be conducted before or after regular school hours or by adding extra days to the school year.

This implies that in addition to regular class time, districts may also use alternative times.



Funds from Section 31a can be used to fund personnel for tutorial or remedial interventions in a school.





ANSWER:

TRUE—Using 31a funds is allowable if the expenditure is the result of a need expressed in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and the LEA continuous improvement plan as it relates to 3rd grade proficiency in reading and career/college ready 11th grade students..

Return to Question Board

Funds from Section 31a can be used to provide up to \$5.00 for a school breakfast program.





ANSWER:

FALSE –Schools shall use up to \$10.00 for a school breakfast program.



A position of Student Success Coordinator is being established This person is an educational advocate for at -risk students who are behind on grade level requirements necessary for graduation and post-secondary success. Can Section 31a fund this position?

Return to
Question Board



ANSWER:

FALSE—The wording of the position description implies an administrative role. Different wording may remove the stigma of administration. One also must consider that the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan must cite this position and its role as a strategy.



There is no longer a requirement that Section 31a funds be supplementary.





ANSWER:

\$800

TRUE—. Districts have the flexibility to use the funds, but, will be held accountable for reading proficiency at 3rd grade and career and college readiness at 11th grade.



We have three high schools and they each use Section 31a funds to purchase E2020 licenses exclusively for students who meet the 31a eligibility criteria. One of our middle schools would like to purchase E2020 licenses for next year out of general funds to use as extension for any student in the building. Would this be supplanting?

Return to Question Board

ANSWER:

TRUE—No. Supplanting/supplementing are no longer part of the new Section 31a legislation. Section 31a funds can be used as long as it promotes reading proficiency at 3rd grade and career and college readiness at 11th grade.".



Public School Academies, School Districts and the EAA must submit a new application each year by July 1.

Return to Question Board

ANSWER:

FALSE—There is no application required, even for new PSA's schools or districts.

Return to Question Board

Districts can now use Section 31a funds for schoolwide activities as long as 30% of the students in the school are identified as at-risk.

Return to
Question Board

ANSWER:

FALSE—The percentage of at-risk should be at least 40%.

Return to Question Board

Some students could not pass a subject area on the MME and be considered atrisk but still be considered college or career ready based upon their ACT score.

Return to Question Board

See Answer

ANSWER:

\$600

TRUE--College and career readiness is currently only determed on the ACT portion of the MME.



Our district would like to hire a paraprofessional to work in a crisis intervention classroom for Section 31a students. Is this fundable with 31a?

Return to Question Board

See Answer

ANSWER:

FALSE—A paraprofessional could be employed for this position, but must be closely supervised by and consult with a licensed social worker, psychologist or school counselor. Overall, it is not a good practice, and not allowable if the paraprofessional works alone..

Return to **Question Board**

To request a class size reduction, the school must have at least 30% free breakfast, lunch, or milk and be 60% or more of the district's percentage of eligibility.

Return to **Question Board**



ANSWER:

TRUE—Although stricken from the current legislation, if the classroom size reduction is a strategy written into the LEA/school continuing plan, it is allowable. Documentation must also be submitted showing a three year trend of class size for the grade(s) selected and contract language addressing class size, as is done for Title IIA. This also requires prior approval from the MDE 31a consultant.



When I tried to submit my Section 31a report, I received an error message, but I could not find any error. There has to be something wrong with MEGS+.





ANSWER:

FALSE—The most common error is completing a section of the report, saving it, then next day opening another page in the same section. You now have two versions of the same page and to correct it you must delete the incorrect one.

Return to Question Board

Two of our Section 31a teachers were laid off in June of this year. We should be able to pay our portion of the unemployment insurance with 31a funds.





ANSWER:

FALSE—Under the old legislation, this was not allowed. Under new legislation, the acid test is whether it is a service to students that will lead them to be proficient in reading in the 3rd grade and career/college ready by 11th grade.

Return to Question Board

Is a student still at risk if they do not meet any of the identifying factors except a non-proficient score in 11th grade MME assessment

Return to **Question Board**

See Answer

ANSWER:

TRUE—The student must be proficient in all subtest areas of the MME to be college/career ready.



Professional development has been scheduled to present information about the use of Read 180 for Section 31a students. We are sending all instructional staff because we feel everyone will benefit by the collegial discussions that will take place. The new legislation will allow us to do this.





ANSWER:

TRUE—This activity is allowed with the new legislation. If administrators attend they cannot be supported by 31a funds.



Rob The Drummer provides a unique perspective on bullying. Are we able to use Section 31a funds to have him relay his message with a performance for our students?





ANSWER:

TRUE— This is an example of the funding of an anti-bullying program that would provide insight on how students can deal with a bully.



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